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EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
"With Pride We Serve"

PRESS RELEASE

September 7, 2012

NEW NON-FUNCTIONING TRAFFIC LIGHT LAW TO TAKE EFFECT

Easton Police are reminding motorists of a new law about to take effect regarding actions drivers must take when approaching intersections with non-functioning traffic signals.

Beginning October 1, 2012, a driver approaching a nonfunctioning traffic control signal **from any direction** at an intersection shall stop:

- At a clearly marked stop line;
- Before entering any crosswalk; or
- Before entering the intersection.

After stopping, the driver must:

- Yield to any vehicle or pedestrian in the intersection; and
- Remain stopped until it is safe to enter and continue through the intersection.

Intersection traffic control signals, most commonly called 'red lights,' or 'stop lights,' direct the safe and orderly flow of traffic in and through thousands of intersections across Maryland. Most are powered by electricity that can be interrupted because of storms, traffic crashes, or other incidents that cause power outages. Just because a traffic control signal is not functioning at an intersection does not mean drivers are relieved of their duty to exercise care and caution. The new law makes clear the procedures each driver must now follow.

There are also times when a traffic control signal that normally operates green, yellow, and red lights may be in 'flashing' mode. This usually means red lights may be flashing in one direction and yellow lights are flashing in another direction. Flashing red and yellow lights on a traffic control signal do not mean the light is 'non-functioning' and the new law would apply. In this situation, the drivers approaching the red flashing light must stop and can only proceed when the intersection is clear. Drivers approaching the yellow flashing light should slow down and use caution, but are permitted to proceed through the intersection without stopping.

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